

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (currently amended) A method of making an elongated  
2 structural component having regions of different thicknesses along  
3 a length thereof matched to different loads adapted to be applied  
4 to said component, the method comprising the steps of sequentially:

5           (a) rolling flexible metal strip so as to form along a  
6 length thereof rolled strip segments of different wall thickness;

7           (b) cutting from the flexible rolled strip sheet bars  
8 having regions of the different wall thicknesses formed by rolling  
9 in step (a) and matched to different loads to be applied to the  
10 component;

11           (c) reshaping each sheet bar cut from the rolled strip in  
12 step (b) to a final configuration of the respective structural  
13 component in at least one forming step in at least one hot-forming  
14 tool; and

15           (d) hardening the respective reshaped sheet bar thereof  
16 in the respective hot-forming tool.

1           2. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1,  
2 further comprising the steps of:

3           marking positions of strip segments of different wall  
4 thicknesses prior to cutting step (b); and

5           in cutting step (b) positioning a cut contour for the  
6 ~~cutting in step (b)~~ precisely using the positions marked on the  
7 strip.

1           3. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1,  
2 further comprising the step of  
3           providing in said strip at thinner segments thereof ~~for~~  
4 ~~the cutting in step (b)~~, formations compensating for thickness  
5 differences in said strip and facilitating stacking thereof.

1           4. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein  
2 said formations are corrugations.

5. (canceled)